

willing and ready, but they have no leaders. The vigilance of the administration and the large detective force, the large bodies paid for treachery, and the respectable men who have yielded to the temptation, added to a large military force stationed in those states, make organization and preparation almost impossible. A large number of men have been expended in fostering and furthering these operations, and it now seems to have been to little profit. In reviewing the past I do not see how it could have been avoided, nor how it could have been better. The apprehensions of the enemy have caused him to bring back and keep from the field in front at least 60,000 men to watch and browbeat the people at home. In this view of the subject the same amount of money has effected so much in no other quarter since the commencement of the war.

In July last Charles H. Cole, of Gen. Forrest's command, made his escape from prison. He represented to me that he had been appointed a lieutenant in our navy. I sent him around the lakes, with instructions to go as a lower deck passenger, to familiarize himself with all the channels and different approaches to the several harbors, the strength of each place, the dependencies of each, especially to learn all that he could about the war steamer Michigan, and devise some plan for her capture or destruction. This duty he performed very satisfactorily. He was then instructed to return and put himself in communication with the officers of the Michigan, and feeling his way to endeavor to purchase the boat from its officers. For a time he thought he would succeed in this if he could give the guarantee of payment of the sum stipulated, but by degrees the question was dropped, and he asked permission to organize a force aboard and take her. This was given, and Acting Master John V. Beall was sent him to aid in the organization and carrying out the enterprise. Their plan was well conceived and held out the promise of success. It had been previously ascertained from escaped prisoners from Johnson's island that the organization existing among the prisoners on the island for the purpose of surprising the guard and capturing the island. The presence of the steamer Michigan, which carried fourteen guns, was the only obstacle. Secret communications were had with which they were advised that on the night of the nineteenth of September an attempt to seize the Michigan would be made. On that night Capt. Cole, who had previously established the friendly relations with the officers of the steamer, was to have wine drinking with them on board, and at a given hour Acting Master Beall was to appear on a boat, to be obtained for that purpose, with a sufficient body of confederate soldiers to board and take the steamer. Should they capture the steamer, a cannon shot sent through the officers' quarters on Johnson's island was to signify to the prisoners that the hour for their release had come. Should they take the island boats were to leave for the coast, and if they were to be attacked; if taken the prisoners were to be mounted and make for Cleveland, the boats co-operating, and from Cleveland the prisoners were to make Wheeling and thence to Virginia. The plan for the whole movement was the capture of the Michigan. On the evening of the nineteenth, by some treachery, Cole was arrested, and the messenger who was to meet Acting Master Beall at Kelly's island did not reach him; disappointed, but nothing daunted, Acting Master Beall, having possession of the Philo Parsons, passenger steamer from Detroit to Sandusky, went on his way toward Johnson's island. Having landed at Middle Bay Island to secure a supply of wood, the steamer landed a party with a large number of passengers and thirty-two soldiers, came up alongside and lashed herself to the Parsons. An attack was at once resolved upon. The passengers and soldiers were made prisoners and the boat delivered up to our men. The soldiers were left on the island, having given their promise not to leave for twenty-four hours, and the boat was towed to the lake and anchored. The Parsons was then steered directly for the bay of Sandusky. Here the men, from certain reasons not altogether satisfactory, but possibly fortunately, refused to make the attack on the Michigan. Beall returned, landed at Kelly's island, and the men were sent through the country. Most of them returned to the confederate states; but a few days since Acting Master Bennett G. Burley was arrested, and the trial is now going on for his delivery under the extrajurisdiction treaty. If we had Cole's, Beall's, or his own commission, I should not fear the result as it is, they will have to prove that they acted under my order, and they will in all probability secure his release; but it may lead to my expulsion from the provinces. At least, I have it from a reliable source that this last proposition has been pressed upon the Canadian authorities, and they have considered it. Should the sense of events lead in this direction, undivided by you, I shall consider it my duty to remain where I am and abide the issue. I should prefer, if it is possible, to have your views on the subject. Capt. Cole is still a prisoner on Johnson's island, in obedience to your suggestion, as far as it was practicable, soon after my arrival here I urged the people in the north to convert their paper money into gold and withdraw it from the market. I am satisfied this policy was adopted and carried into effect to some extent, but how extensively I am unable to state. What effect it had on the gold market it is impossible to estimate, but certain it is that gold continued to appreciate until it reached \$250. The high price may have tempted many to change their policy, because afterward gold fell in the market to 150. When it was about 150, and exportation of gold was so small that there was no demand for it, Mr. John Porterfield, formerly a banker in Nashville, but now a resident of Montreal, was furnished with \$100,000 and instructed to proceed to New York to carry out a financial policy of his own conception, which consisted in the purchase of gold and exporting the same, selling it for sterling bills of exchange, and then again converting his exchange into gold. This process involved a certain loss, but he considered it worth it. He was instructed by Mr. Clay and myself to go on with his policy until he had expended \$25,000, with which he supposed he would ship directly \$5,000,000 and induce others to ship more, and then, if the effect upon the gold market was not very perceptible, he was to desist and return to Canada and restore the money unexpended. By his last report he had caused the shipment of more than two millions of gold at an expense of less than \$10,000, but it seems that Mr. Lyons, who had been a former partner of Porterfield, who was exporting gold, but on the ground that he was exporting gold, and although Mr. Lyons had no connection with Mr. Porterfield in his transaction, yet he thought it prudent to return to Canada, and while he returns the unexpended balance of the \$25,000 to carry out his instructions, he has restored \$75,000. I must confess that the first shipment had a marked effect on the market. I am inclined to the opinion that his theory will work great damage and distrust to the federal finances if vigorously followed up, and if no untoward circumstances should interfere with the operation.

Soon after I reached Canada a Mr. Minor Major visited me and represented himself as an accredited agent from the confederate states to destroy steamboats on the Mississippi river, and that his operations were suspended for want of means. I advanced to him \$2,000 in federal currency, and he afterward several boats were burned at St. Louis, involving an immense loss of property to the enemy. He became suspected, as he represented to me, of being the author of this burning, and from that time both he and his men have been hiding, and consequently have done nothing. Money has been advanced to Mr. Churchill, of Cincinnati, to organize a corps for the purpose of incendiarism in that city. I consider him a dangerous man, and although as yet he has effected but little, I am in constant expectation of hearing of effective work in that quarter.

Previous to the arrival of Lieut. Col. Martin and Lieut. Headley, bringing an unassigned note from you, all the different places where our prisoners are confined—Camp Douglas, Rock Island, Camp Morton, Camp Chase, Elmira—had been thoroughly examined, and the conclusion was forced upon us that all efforts to release them were in vain. The operation would bring disasters upon the prisoners and result in no good. All projects of that sort were abandoned except at Camp Douglas, where Capt. Hines still believed he could effect their release, and he yielded to his fantasies, and persistence, and his plans were plausible, but treachery defeated him before his well laid schemes were developed. Having nothing else on hand, Col. Martin ex-

pressed a wish to organize a corps to burn New York city. He was allowed to do so, and a meeting attempt has been made to fire that city, but their reliance on the Greek fire has proved a misfortune. It cannot be depended on as an agent in such work. I have no faith whatever in it, and no attack shall hereafter be made under my general directions with any such materials. I knew nothing whatever of the raid on St. Albans until after it transpired. Desiring to have a boat on whose captain and crew reliance could be placed, and on board of which arms could be sent to convenient points for arming such vessels as could be seized for operations on the lakes, I aided Dr. James T. Bates, of Kentucky, an old steamboat captain, in the purchase of the steamer Georgian. She had scarcely been transferred when the story went abroad that she had been purchased and armed for the purpose of sinking the Michigan, and destroying the shipping on the lakes and the cities on their margin. The wildest consternation prevailed in all the border cities; at Buffalo two tug boats had been placed on board, four regiments of soldiers were sent there, two of these regiments had been drawn from the army in Virginia. Bells were rung at Detroit and churches broken up on Sunday. The whole lakeshore was a scene of wild excitement. Boats were sent out which boarded the Georgian and asked which contraband on board, but still the people were incredulous.

The bane and curse of carrying out anything in this country is the surveillance under which we set. Detectives or those ready to give information stand at every step. Two or three cannot interchange ideas without a reporter. The presidential election has so demoralized the leaders of the order of the "Sons of Liberty" that a new organization under new leaders has become an absolute necessity. This is now going forward with great vigor and success. The new order is styled the "Order of the Star." There is a general expectation that there will soon be a new draft, and the members wear resistance to another draft. It is purely military, wholly independent of politics and politicians. It is given out among the members that Stonewall Jackson is the founder of the order, and the name has its significance from the stars on the collar of southern officers. There is no ground to doubt that the masses to a large extent of the north are brave and true, and believe Lincoln a tyrant and usurper.

During my stay in Canada a great amount of property has been destroyed by burning. The information brought me as to the perpetrators is so conflicting and contradictory that I am satisfied that nothing can be done. Should claims be presented for the war office for payment for this kind of work, not one dollar should be advanced on any proof adduced until all the parties concerned may have an opportunity for making out and presenting proof. Several parties have been known to work at New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisville, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and at Cairo. Within the last few days Dr. K. I. Stewart, of Virginia, has reached this place, and very mysteriously informs me that he has a plan for the capture of the Michigan, which has received the sanction of the president. He is in want of money, and states to me that you gave him a draft on a for \$50,000 in gold, which has been lost on the way. He has sent back to Richmond for a renewal. He has rented a large house, and moved his family into it. I cannot do it, but, of course, I do not feel authorized to advance him money without your authority or that of the president. He has been constrained to advance him \$500 in gold, on his written statement that unless the money was in hand the lives and liberties of high Confederate officers would be imperiled.

Owing to the health of Mr. Clay, we separated at Halifax, and since then we have not lived together, though we have been in consulting distance. As the money was all in my name, which I supposed to be controlled by the president, and as he had a sum placed in his hands at all times subject to his personal control, I transferred to him \$50,000, for which I hold his receipts, and for which he promises to account to the proper authorities. He has done this, and he has turned over to Mr. Clay, all of which he has not yet expended; the entire expenditure as yet on all accounts is about \$300,000. I still hold three drafts for \$100,000 each, which he has not been collected. He has turned over to me to return to me, and I would be glad to know in what way you think I had best return with the funds remaining on hand. I infer from your personal in the New York News that it is your wish that I should remain here for the present, and I shall obey your orders. Indeed, I have so many papers in my possession, which, in the hands of the enemy, would utterly ruin and destroy very many of the prominent men in the north, that I feel it my duty to remain here, and I shall force on me the extreme caution in my movements.

For the future, discharging all dependence on the organizations in the northern states, our efforts, in my judgment, should be directed to inducing the men who are conscripted in the north, and who utterly refuse to join the army to fight against the confederate states, to make their way south to join our service. It is indicated by many that a number sufficient to make up a division may be secured in this way for our service before spring, especially if our army opens up a road to the Ohio. Some are now on their way to Canada, which at present is the point of departure, and also to operate on the coast, and force the enemy to keep up a guard on all their roads, which will require a large standing army at home; and to burn, whenever it is practicable, and thus make the men who are conscripted in the north, and who utterly refuse to join the army to fight against the confederate states, to make their way south to join our service. 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